

Retrospective Analysis of Early Mission Human Spaceflight Medical Data



SPACE LIFE SCIENCES
SUMMER INSTITUTE



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National Space Biomedical Research Institute Summer Apprenticeship Program

Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health

www.nasa.gov

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Introduction

- Research and career interests

 - Epidemiology, data science

- Why NASA?

 - Unique population, exposures, and data use

 - Human spaceflight as an inspiration for innovative public health initiatives on Earth

 - Combine interests in epidemiology and science fiction



LSAH and LSAH Repository



□ LSAH

conducts occupational surveillance and disease prevention

□ Repository

compiles and releases medical data for consented research use

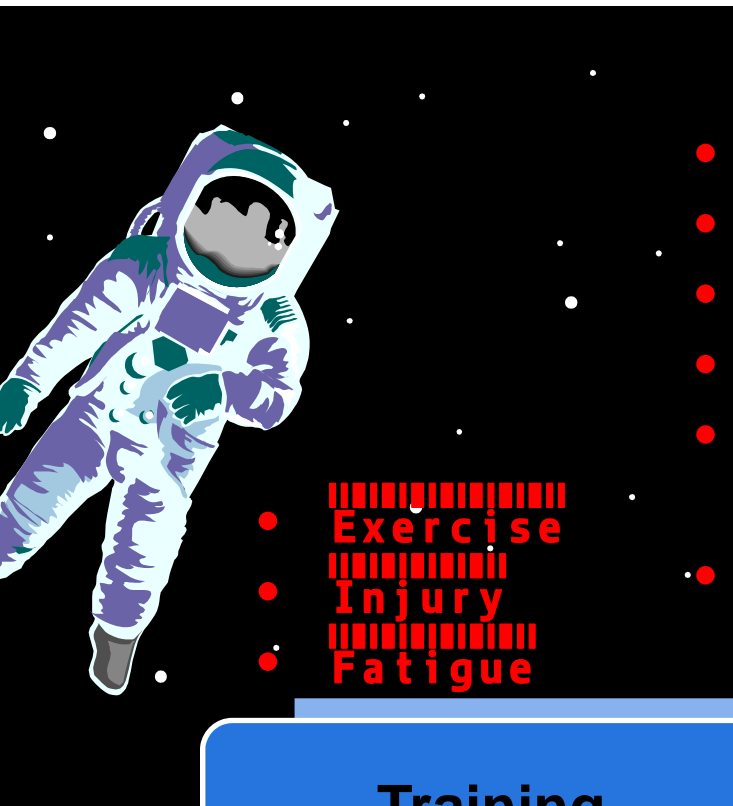
□ Data Limitations

Collection objective – operations

Availability

Why Early Missions?

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Increase sample size for
|||||
human spaceflight
|||||
exposures and outcomes



- Exercise
- Injury
- Fatigue

- Diet
- Fluid Shift
- Motion Sickness
- Deconditioning
- Bone
- Demineralization
- Impaired Cell-mediated Immunity

- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer
- Mortality due to accidents
- Routine exercise

Training

24-hour to 4-week
Missions

Life Course

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Sleep Debt and Psychosocial Factors
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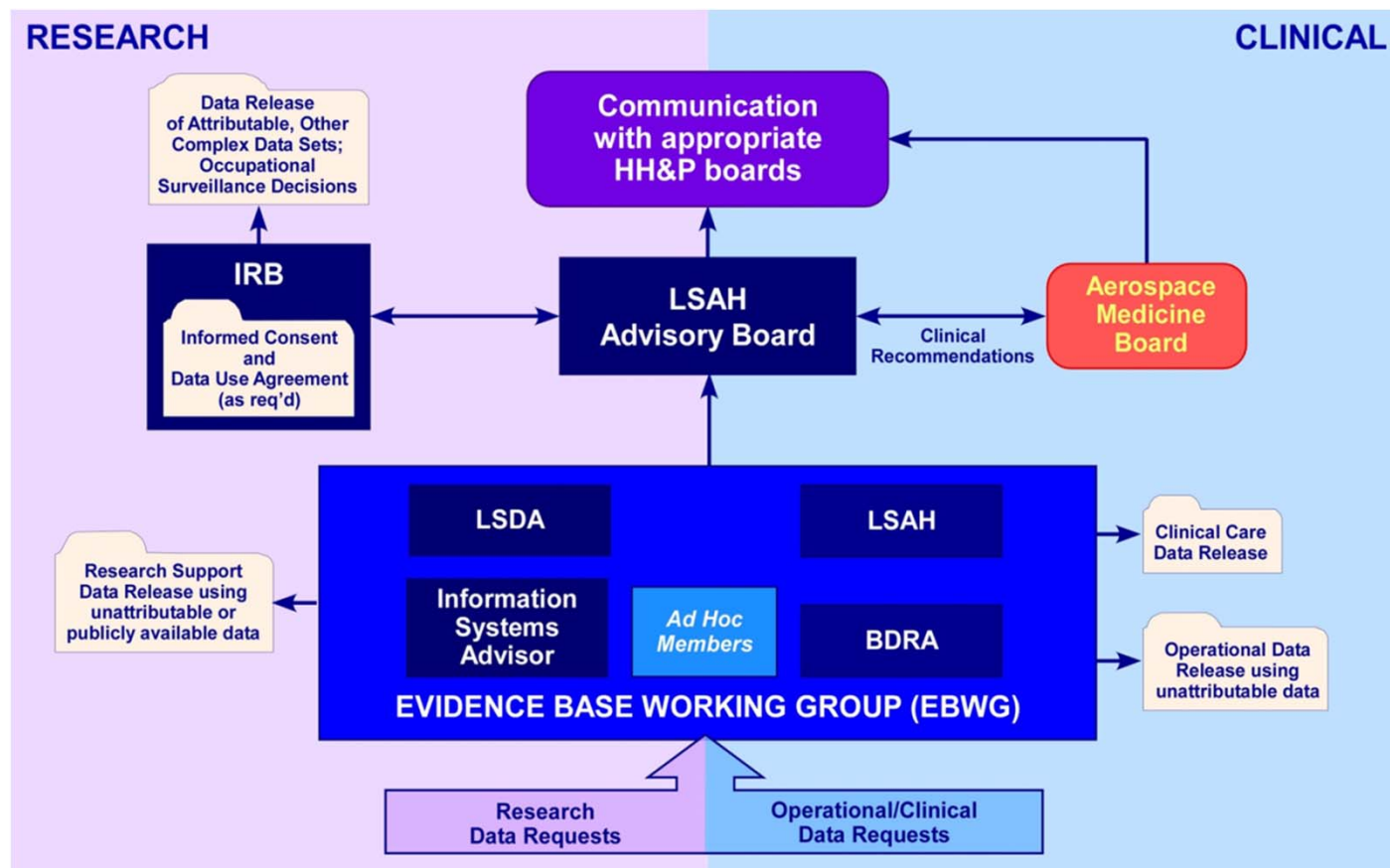
Why Early Missions?

- Unique exposures – lunar EVAs
- Complete exposure data for astronauts who flew later missions
- Historical Significance



Project

Consented release of early mission data to National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) and other researchers



Objectives

- Inventory data and summarize available data types
- Evaluate early mission NSBRI physiology data set and conduct preliminary analysis



Methods

- Paper and electronic flight medical records
- Data inventory and analysis in Excel and SAS



Early Mission Astronaut Population

- n=34
- 28 flights
- 41 EVAs
- 526 person-days of spaceflight



Example Analyses

Physiology Data
Set

Flight Duration

Reduced cellular
immunity

Change in
differential
blood cell count

Physiology and
LSAH Data Sets

Flight Duration

Bone
Demineralization

Change in Plasma
Calcium Levels

Post-flight
sprains and
fractures over
life course

Results

- Early mission record and variable inventory
- Data set assembly procedure
- Validated Mercury and Gemini NSBRI physiology data set for research analysis

Preliminary analysis



Skills Acquired

- Introduction to occupational health epidemiology with human spaceflight exposures
- Medical records management
- New SAS skills
- CITI Human Subjects Research Basic Course

Discussion

- Early mission record availability will facilitate
 - Spaceflight exposure risk and outcome research
 - Occupational surveillance
 - Preservation of spaceflight history



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